

**2005 White House listening session
Written statement prepared by the
Illinois Adult Day Service Association (IADSA)**

Pat Stacy Cohen, President

The purpose of IADSA is to:

1. To provide the opportunity for communication, cooperation and coordination among providers of Adult Day Service in Illinois.
2. To encourage, support and participate in the promotion of the concept of Adult Day Service;
3. To develop and implement training programs for personnel of adult day service centers.
4. To represent adult day service in the aging services network.
5. To serve as an advocate for adult day service centers and their members.
6. To provide a single united entity to speak for and to represent adult day service centers in Illinois, especially in interacting with local, state and Federal entities as they create policy, implement legislation and administer funding which affects adult day services.

Mailing address

Pat Stacy Cohen
c/o Accolade Adult Day Service
112 S. Humphrey
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-445-1300
pscohen@catholiccharities.net

Subject to be presented:

The role of adult day service in the continuum of care

First, we wish to express appreciation to the Illinois Department on Aging, 14A Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the Illinois Coalition on Aging for hosting this 2005 White House Conference on Aging Listening Session.

We also thank you for all the efforts on behalf of Illinois' older adults.

Our comments emanate primarily from the "our community" segment of the document you forwarded with the notice of this session:

Adult day programs continue to be one of the "best kept secrets" in many communities. Chronic care needs, including care for people with dementia, are addressed in adult day centers through a variety of services including nursing care, assistance with ADL's such as personal hygiene, meals, transportation and activities designed to support the functional abilities of the participants. Adult day services provide social services, including help negotiating the patchwork of care options for clients and their caregivers. We believe that chronic care needs are as important as acute care needs and must be addressed in both the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

- ❖ We urge the policy committee to emphasize the value of adult day service (ADS) when they create the "one-stop shops."
 - An adult day service can support many of the needs of the older adult in a congregate setting. These programs can individualize care, yet offer a level of intervention above that of an in-home homemaker.
 - ADS programs offer opportunities for socialization and stimulating activity.

- ❖ Interaction between health and aging networks, especially if the local ADS is included in the efforts, can offer more comprehensive coordination for adult day care clients as they move from one level of care to another.
- ❖ The needs of the baby boomers may be different in some ways from other cohorts of older adults, but in many ways the needs will be similar. As in the past, our Association encourages the committee to consider the following recommendations based on our experience with the Waiver Program.
 - We believe that the long term care portion of the Medicaid program needs to be restructured to adequately and cost-effectively meet the country's long term care needs.
 - Include a variety of services from low to high intensity of care in the regular Medicaid Program, rather than focusing on nursing home care and only including less intensive services, like home and community based services, through Waiver Programs.
 - Develop eligibility criteria to reflect a continuum of needs, rather than requiring a person to a single standard for either nursing home or home and community based services.
 - Target eligibility for care options to meet these varying functional and health needs. People with less intense needs would be only eligible for less intense services and people with more intense needs would have an option to receive more intense services.
 - Develop an equitable funding standard for Medicaid services based on the cost of provision of care.

At this time, I would like to reference conclusions of the **National Study of Adult Day Services**, published in 2002 by Partners in Caregiving.

- ❖ The **National Study of Adult Day Services** shows a level of sophistication in service delivery of which many people are not aware (in regard to populations served and services offered), dispelling the myth of being just a babysitting service. It shows adult day centers as a viable, cost-effective community-based service option in the long-term care continuum, that helps keep individuals (in need of chronic care) at home, in the community, with family and friends for as long as possible.
- ❖ Growth in the adult day services industry is evident, with 26% of all adult day centers opening in the last five years. However, growth lags behind the need for the service, with 56% of the counties in the United States under served (1,770 counties out of a total of 3,141). The study concludes that the current population base of the United States can support a total of 8,520 adult day centers. With current need not being met, 5,415 new adult day centers are needed nationwide (1,424 in rural areas and 3,991 in urban areas).

Again, we would like to express our appreciation for the opportunity to present our concerns and suggestions. Our efforts joined with yours will better meet the needs of those with chronic care needs.